

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1       12. (currently amended) A method for limiting the operational life of software  
2       in a network environment, the method comprising:

3               transmitting a program applet with a password embedded  
4       therewithin from a server computer to a client computer, via a network, the  
5       password having a limited operational life, and the program applet including  
6       executable code that runs on the client computer;

7               receiving by the server computer, from said program applet at  
8       running on the client computer, via said network, (i) a request for information  
9       stored in a restricted access storage area of the server computer, and (ii) said  
10      embedded password;

11              authenticating said embedded password by the server computer,  
12      whenever said receiving occurs;

13              thereafter transmitting said information from the server  
14      computer, to said program applet at-running on the client computer, via said  
15      network, while said embedded password is valid; and

16              invalidating said embedded password by the server computer,  
17      coincident with an invalidation event.

1       13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said  
2       invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password at a predetermined  
3       time.

1       14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said  
2       invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password after lapse of a  
3       predetermined time from when said request was received.

1       15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said  
2       invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password upon the detection  
3       of a loss of communication with said client.

1       16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

1 18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 transmitting a program applet comprises generating said embedded password.

1 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system  
2 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

3 a password generator;  
4 password validation apparatus;  
5 a restricted-access storage area;  
6 a program applet including executable code that runs on a client  
7 computer; and  
8 invalidation apparatus;

9 wherein said server computer is operative to:

10 a) cause said password generator to generate a password, the  
11 password having a limited operational life;

12 b) embed said password within said program applet, and  
13 transmit said program applet with said password embedded therewithin to ~~a~~-the  
14 client computer via a network;

15 c) receive from said program applet ~~at-running on~~ the client  
16 computer, (i) a request for information, and (ii) said embedded password for  
17 authentication;

18 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password  
19 validation apparatus, whenever information requested is stored in the  
20 restricted-access storage area;

21 e) transmit said information to said program applet ~~at-running on~~  
22 the client computer, via said network, while said embedded password is valid; and

23 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation  
24 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event  
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 27 wherein said  
2 invalidation event comprises the lapsing of a predetermined time from when said  
3 request was received.

1       **30. (original)**   A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event  
2       comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1       **31. (canceled)**

1       **32. (canceled)**

1       **33. (canceled)**